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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shinobu OZEKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2625

Application No.: 09/865,570

Examiner: K. POON

Filed: May 29, 2001

Docket No.: 109663

For: MULTIFUNCTION SYSTEM

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement mailed February 8, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect Species III, Figure 11. Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 5-11 and 14 read on elected Species III and that claims 1, 2 and 6-11 are generic. This election is made with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 2, 2007

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